

FACULTY OF MUSIC UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

FACULTY ARTISTS SERIES

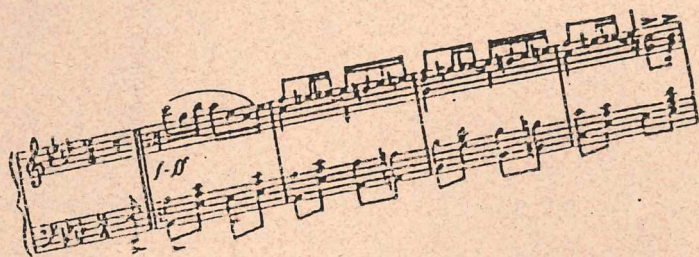
"From Rags to Riches"

Xylophone solos from the early 1900s

performed by

NEXUS

with
small orchestra



Friday, September 25, 1992

8 pm

Walter Hall Edward Johnson Building

NEXUS

Bob Becker ♦ Bill Cahn ♦ Robin Engelman
Russell Hartenberger ♦ John Wyre

PROGRAMME

Yes! We Have No Bananas	Silver, Cohn/arr. Cahn
Girlfriends Medley	arr. Becker
(Margie, Jean, Dinah)	
April Showers	Silvers/arr. Engelman
(John Wyre, vocal)	
Spanish Waltz	Green/arr. Becker
Nola	Arnot/arr. Green, Cahn
My Mother's Lullaby	Gulick & Heagney
	arr. Briegel, Libonati, Becker
Alabama Moon	Green/arr. Cahn
The Vamp	Gay/arr. Cahn
(Barbara Hannigan, vocal)	
States Medley	arr. Becker
(Indiana, Alabama Bound, California Here I Come)	
Fluffy Ruffles	Green/arr. Cahn

♦ INTERMISSION ♦

Bolero-Spanish Dance No. 5	Moszkowski/arr. Cahn
The Ragtime Drummer	Lent/arr. Cahn
Dotty Dimples	Green/arr. Cahn
Teddy at the Throttle (A Mack Sennett Film, 1916)	arr. Cahn
With Bobby Vernon, Gloria Swanson, Wallace Beery & Teddy the Dog	
(Music by Charlotte Blake, Max C. Eugene, Victor Herbert, Ernst Luz and George Trinkhaus)	

♦ ♦ ♦

NEXUS Representative: BETSY M. GREEN ASSOCIATES, INC.,
36 Hampshire Road, Wayland, MA 01778 U.S.A. Tel. (508)368-2939

NEXUS has received the support of the Canada Council, the Ontario Arts Council,
the Canadian Department of External Affairs,
and the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications

Orchestra

Violin

Corey Gemmell
Nancy Case
Gabriel Pliego
Amanda Lee

Viola

Richard Lee
Nikki Buechler

Cello

Lois Chia
Mary Catherine Finch

Bass

David Young
Thomas Artis

Percussion

Blair MacKay

Flute

Don Englert

Clarinet

Phil Nimmons

Trumpet

Kevin Turcott
Curtis Eby

Trombone

Cam Walter

Vocal Soloist

Barbara Hannigan



PROGRAMME NOTES

From the turn of the century until about 1930, the music of small orchestras could be heard in theatres throughout North America. A successful theatre, fortunate enough to have its own orchestra, could present vaudeville shows, music revues, concerts, operas, and accompaniments for silent movies. A typical programme at a theatre matinee might include medleys of music from popular musical shows to vocal solos, and transcriptions of opera overtures or light classics. In the pre-radio days, such programmes were often the primary means of introducing contemporary music to audiences outside the major cities.

During the same period, there was a parallel growth in the number of orchestras playing music in dance halls. A tremendous dance "craze" took place all over North America in the years preceding World War I, continuing through the Roaring Twenties. Before 1918, the instrumentation of the dance ensembles was similar to the theatre orchestras. One instrument in particular - the xylophone - found its way into the dance orchestras, probably because of its ability to accentuate the syncopated rhythms of the newer dance music.

One of the most popular dance orchestras was the *Green Brothers' Novelty Xylophone Band*. This group consisted of string and wind instruments, as well as two or three xylophones played by George and Joseph Green, who were both virtuosos on the instrument. They both greatly expanded the instrument's expressive potential through their many compositions and transcriptions. The Green Brothers were very active in the budding record industry, and they recorded hundreds of dance tunes for virtually every major record label in existence in America before 1930.

The selections on this programme represent a cross-section of arrangements from the era of the theatre orchestras and dance orchestras of the first three decades of this century. The music, though relatively light in character, is nevertheless demonstrative of the energy, joy, and direct sentiment of its time.

This programme is dedicated to the music of the *Green Brothers' Novelty Xylophone Band*.

TONIGHT'S ARTISTS

Formed in 1971 by *Bob Becker, William Cahn, Robin Engelman, Russell Hartenberger, and John Wyre*, NEXUS has come to be recognized as one of the foremost chamber ensembles in the world. Through twenty years of performing together, the five members of NEXUS have developed a unique repertoire and rapport, allowing audiences to enter, experience and enjoy the special world that is a NEXUS concert.

Recent international acclaim has resulted from NEXUS' performances of Toru Takemitsu's *From me flows what you call Time*, composed for NEXUS and the

Boston Symphony Orchestra and commissioned by Carnegie Hall for its 1990-91 Centennial celebration. This work received its world premiere by NEXUS, The Boston Symphony and Seiji Ozawa at Carnegie Hall in October 1990, and was later repeated at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. The Japanese premiere was given by NEXUS, The New Japan Philharmonic and Seiji Ozawa at Suntory Hall in Tokyo in October 1991.

NEXUS' distinctive repertoire for percussion and symphony orchestra has led to appearances with the Boston Symphony, the Cleveland Orchestra, the New York Philharmonic, the Orchestre National de Lyon, the Pacific Symphony, as well as the orchestras of Atlanta, Buffalo, Dallas, Detroit, Louisville, Memphis, Ottawa, Rochester, St. Paul and Toronto.

NEXUS performs a wide and eclectic range of music. It created and performed the music for the Academy Award-winning film, *The Man Who Skied Down Everest*. Recent releases include six CDs and a video, *Super Percussion*, filmed at the Tokyo Music Joy Festival in 1988. In April of 1992 the ensemble was featured in CBS Television's *Sunday Morning* with Charles Kuralt and Eugenia Zukerman.

Since 1975 the group has travelled extensively including tours of Australia and New Zealand, Asia (they were the first western percussion group to perform in the Peoples' Republic of China), Scandinavia and Europe as well as regular appearances throughout the United States and Canada. NEXUS has been featured at the Adelaide Festival, the Holland Festival, the Tanglewood Music Festival, the Toronto International Festival, the Los Angeles Festival, the Music Today Festival in Tokyo, the Forum des Percussions in Paris, the Southbank Festival, the BBC Proms in London, the British Percussion Festival, World Drums festivals at Expo '86 in Vancouver and Expo '88 in Brisbane, and the Calgary Olympic Arts Festival.

The recipient of the Toronto Arts Award in 1989, NEXUS has also received the support of the Canada Council, the Canada Council Touring Office, the Government of Canada Department of External Affairs, the Ontario Arts Council, the Ontario Ministry of Culture and Communications, the Arts Council of Great Britain, the New York State Council for the Arts, the Western States Arts Federation and the Connecticut Commission on the Arts.



OBUS Forme available from Ushers



OBUS Forme®

OBUS Forme is a registered trademark of OBUS Forme, Ltd.
Designed and manufactured in Canada